

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

<b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>DATE FILED: _____</b>
<b>v.</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>CRIMINAL NO. _____</b>
<b>BRET STEVEN SONENSTEIN</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>VIOLATION:</b>
	<b>:</b>	<b>18 U.S.C. § 115(a)(1)(B)</b>
	<b>:</b>	<b>(threatening to assault and kill a United States official - 2 counts)</b>
	<b>:</b>	<b>18 U.S.C. § 875(c) (use of telephone to communicate threats to kill - 6 counts)</b>
	<b>:</b>	<b>18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2)</b>
		<b>(false statements - 1 count)</b>

**INDICTMENT**

**THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:**

**INTRODUCTION**

Between on or about March 7, 2005, and on or about May 23, 2005, defendant BRET STEVEN SONENSTEIN made the cellular telephone calls listed in the chart below from the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to United States Senator William H. Frist, M.D., Senate Majority Leader and a Member of Congress, and left numerous messages on the Senator's voicemail system at his offices in Nashville and Chattanooga, Tennessee, threatening to assault and kill Senator Frist and others.

**COUNT ONE**

**THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:**

On or about March 7, 2005, at approximately 6:30 p.m., in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, defendant

**BRET STEVEN SONENSTEIN**

knowingly transmitted, and willfully caused to be transmitted, communications in interstate commerce, that is, telephone calls, originating from Pennsylvania and ending in Tennessee, containing threats to assault and kill United States Senator William H. Frist, M.D., and others.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(c).

**COUNT TWO**

**THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:**

On or about March 7, 2005, at approximately 6:32 p.m., in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, defendant

**BRET STEVEN SONENSTEIN**

knowingly threatened to assault and kill United States Senator William H. Frist, M.D., Senate Majority Leader and a Member of Congress, with the intent to impede, intimidate, interfere with, and retaliate against Senator Frist, while he was engaged in his official duties and on account of the performance of his official duties.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 115(a)(1)(B).

**COUNT THREE**

**THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:**

On or about March 7, 2005, at approximately 6:34 p.m., in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, defendant

**BRET STEVEN SONENSTEIN**

knowingly threatened to assault and kill United States Senator William H. Frist, M.D., Senate Majority Leader and a Member of Congress, with the intent to impede, intimidate, interfere with, and retaliate against Senator Frist, while he was engaged in his official duties and on account of the performance of his official duties.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 115(a)(1)(B).

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**COUNT FOUR**

**THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:**

On or about March 14, 2005, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania,  
defendant

**BRET STEVEN SONENSTEIN,**

in a matter within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, an agency of the executive branch of the United States, knowingly and willfully made materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations in that, when asked by the Federal Bureau of Investigation whether he had called Senator Frist, defendant SONENSTEIN advised the Federal Bureau of Investigation that he had not, when as the defendant knew, he had left threatening voicemail messages at Senator Frist's office in Nashville, Tennessee.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

**COUNT FIVE**

**THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:**

On or about May 14, 2005, at approximately 6:01 p.m., in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, defendant

**BRET STEVEN SONENSTEIN**

knowingly transmitted, and willfully caused to be transmitted, communications in interstate commerce, that is, telephone calls, originating from Pennsylvania and ending in Tennessee, containing threats to assault and kill United States Senator William H. Frist, M.D., and others.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(c).

**COUNT SIX**

**THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:**

On or about May 14, 2005, at approximately 6:04 p.m., in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, defendant

**BRET STEVEN SONENSTEIN**

knowingly transmitted, and willfully caused to be transmitted, communications in interstate commerce, that is, telephone calls, originating from Pennsylvania and ending in Tennessee, containing threats to assault and kill United States Senator William H. Frist, M.D., and others.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(c).

**COUNT SEVEN**

**THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:**

On or about May 23, 2005, at approximately 9:31 p.m., in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, defendant

**BRET STEVEN SONENSTEIN**

knowingly transmitted, and willfully caused to be transmitted, communications in interstate commerce, that is, telephone calls, originating from Pennsylvania and ending in Tennessee, containing threats to assault and kill United States Senator William H. Frist, M.D., and others.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(c).



**COUNT EIGHT**

**THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:**

On or about May 23, 2005, at approximately 9:35 p.m., in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, defendant

**BRET STEVEN SONENSTEIN**

knowingly transmitted, and willfully caused to be transmitted, communications in interstate commerce, that is, telephone calls, originating from Pennsylvania and ending in Tennessee, containing threats to assault and kill United States Senator William H. Frist, M.D., and others.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(c).

**COUNT NINE**

**THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:**

On or about May 23, 2005, at approximately 9:38 p.m., in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, defendant

**BRET STEVEN SONENSTEIN**

knowingly transmitted, and willfully caused to be transmitted, communications in interstate commerce, that is, telephone calls, originating from Pennsylvania and ending in Tennessee, containing threats to assault and kill United States Senator William H. Frist, M.D., and others.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(c).

**A TRUE BILL:**

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**FOREPERSON**

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**PATRICK L. MEEHAN**  
*United States Attorney*